

PERFINED RAILWAY NEWSPAPER PARCEL STAMPS

In Bulletin 291 Pg.6, John Prince reported another two of these stamps to add to the 6 already listed. One was of *The Mersey Railway* but there was no illustration. A non-member, ALAN VIOLET, has sent the following article, taken with the author's consent, from the March 1998 journal of The Railway Philatelic Group, *Railway Philately*.

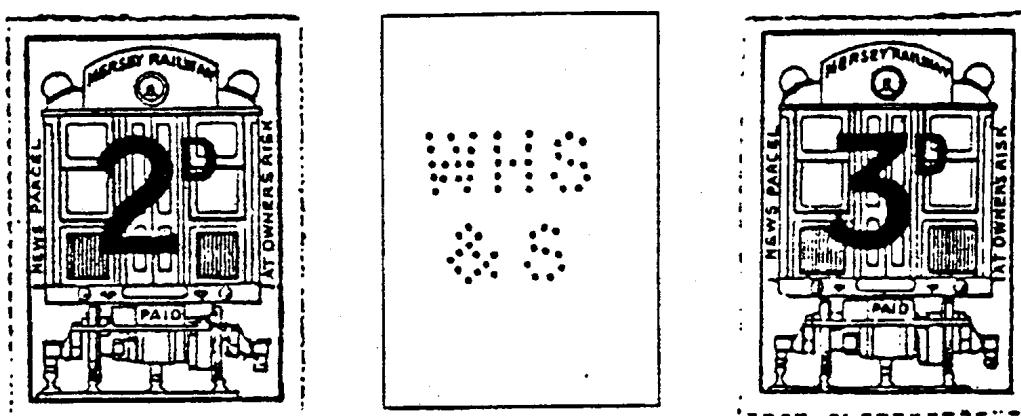
The Mersey Railway A new discovery

By Tony Goodbody

Ewen's 1906 catalogue (Priced Catalogue of Newspaper and Parcel Stamps Issued by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom 1855-1906.) listed stamps showing the front of the recently introduced (1903) electric trains of the Mersey Railway. A solitary 1d blue inscribed '**NEWS PARCELS AT OWNERS RISK**' was followed by a 1d yellow and a 3d dark green inscribed simply '**PARCEL STAMP**'. All three stamps being rouletted.

These stamps are well known and can be purchased for (say) £10 each against Ewan's 1906 price of a few pence.

Recently I discovered a 2d red and a 3d apple green in the same design as the solitary 1d with the inscription '**NEWS PARCEL AT OWNERS RISK**'. The 2d has additional interest being security perforated (perfin) '**W.H.S./S.**', no doubt denoting the newsagent W.H. Smith.



[Ed:- This perfin – W3890.01 – has **NOT** yet been identified.]